Rhetorical Visual Analysis: Patrick Henry Hughes

<http://www.htcinc.net/news.cfm?id=143>



1. My first impression of the picture was that a student confound to a wheelchair was playing with the Marching Band on the side lines. I didn’t know who was standing behind him.
2. In describing the image, the student is on a football field and there are other students behind him playing. The student is working hard at his solo as his face shows.
3. This picture was featured on the Horry Telephone Cooperative website, in recognition of an awards ceremony. (Immediate context).
4. After reading the article by Hayes, I learned that the student, Patrick Henry Hughes, not only is confined to a wheelchair due to his weakened legs but he can also not see, since he was born without eyes. That the man behind him is his father, Patrick John Hughes, and that Hughes Senior pushes Hughes junior through the whole Louisville University Marching Band performance. That I know of, no one else in history confined to a wheelchair has been able to participate in a moving marching band performance. Socially, Hayes has referenced many other students in the band being supportive.
5. The photographer of the picture is not sited, but the HTC Newsletter recognizes him as the special guest speaker at the ceremony. The ceremony was named HTC REEL Kids, it was the 10th annual ceremony honoring 48 students in their local county’s community.
6. The author’s purpose in both the Newsletter and ABC News coverage is to tell the audience of a person who isn’t afraid to become a part of something that society usually chases them away from.
7. The intended audience is everyone. The story is “inspirational” and both authors want the student to be recognized in bright lights.
8. Though Patrick Henry Hughes has a lot of courage for becoming of the Lousiville University Marching Band, he a musically gifted person that should be recognized more for music then his lack of ability to March.
9. When Hayes says that Hughes junior has “overcome so much”, I can hear Linton screaming her beliefs from the article “Reassigning Meaning”, that a person needs to be more pointed and correct when referring to a person with a disability and to not assume the person is continuously suffering. When the student says “I mean, God made me blind, and didn’t give me the ability to work. I mean, big deal” (Hayes), I thought of Garland-Thomson’s arguments of seeing and understanding versus just staring and pitying someone. I feel that both Linton would appreciate Hughes attempt to assimilate into his university but Garland-Thomson would just want him to stand out, which he does being the only wheel-chair in the large university’s band.

Works Cited:

Hayes, Erin “Blind, Wheelchair-Bound Student, Does Not Fail to Inspire”. ABC News Internet Ventures. 10 November 2006. Web. 20 September 2010.

**“HTC honors 48 Horry County Schools’ students for overcoming obstacles”. Online Newsletter. 28 May 2010. Horry Telephone Cooperative, Inc. Web. 20 Sept. 2010.**